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Soviet Union

Vol III No 086 5 May 1986

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'TEXT' OF WORLD LEADERS' LETTER TO GORBACHEV ON TEST BAN

LD021651 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 2 May (TASS) -- We transmit the text of the message to Mikhail Gorbachev:

To Mr M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Dear general secretary!

We thank you for your message of 13 March. We are deeply grateful for your reply to our letter of 28 February, in which we appealed to the United States of America and to the USSR not to sanction any nuclear tests before the next summit meeting between yourself and President Reagan.

We welcome your resolute declaration of the need for the complete and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons. We recall the joint statement previously made by you and President Reagan to the effect that there can be no winners in a nuclear war and that it must not be unleashed.

We appeal to you to go beyond this statement and guarantee that there will be no nuclear war. While there are nuclear weapons in existence, the threat of its accidental or deliberate use cannot be fully ruled out. The only long-term solution is the total destruction of this terrifying weaponry of mass destruction. The first step on this path must be an immediate stop to all nuclear-weapon tests.

We are happy that you share our point of view on the fact that a stop to nuclear tests is an important step in striving to halt the nuclear arms race. We welcome your statement on the Soviet Union's extension of its unilateral moratorium on tests beyond 31 March -- up to the first nuclear blast in the United States. We also note your readiness to make use of our proposal to render assistance in verifying any suspension of nuclear tests.

We are convinced that banning nuclear tests is of tremendous importance for a number of reasons:

First, the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons urges the arms race forward. Further modernization of nuclear arsenals will merely enlarge the source of danger, which also threatens our people and the future of mankind.

Second, your country and the United States possess a sufficient quantity of nuclear weapons to annihilate not only each other, but the entire world several times over.

Third, continued improvement of nuclear weapons by those who possess them would be detrimental to efforts to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons to other countries. We assume that you share our concern over the consequences of such proliferation.

Fourth, we are convinced that it is possible to implement adequately [adekvatnyy] verification of the observance of any suspension of nuclear tests, particularly in view of the fact that both your country and the United States have now stated their willingness to permit on-site inspection. Given the presence of political will and a sufficient degree of mutual trust by both sides, a joint decision on halting tests could be achieved without delay.

Finally, there are a good many other needs in the world that require immediate attention, and moreover, the resources currently spent on the development [razrabotka] of nuclear armaments could find a better use. The struggle against hunger and poverty, illiteracy and disease, must for all of us be a more urgent aim than the further mprovement of means that are capable of leading to the complete annihilation of mankind.

It will soon be 2 years since our group first called for the halting of all nuclear weapons tests. This call was confirmed in the Delhi Declaration in January 1985 as one of the two specific measures that today require particular attention. However, no mutual accord on this matter can yet be foreseen. This matter is too important for us, for all the people in the world, for its solution to be left only to the nuclear powers. For this reason, we will contine to demand that our interests be taken into account.

We are aware that this problem has huge strategic significance both for your country and the United States. Our intentions in no way include interference in your bilateral talks on questions of ars control and disarmament.

There is no doubt that if an accord were reached between your own two countries we would view this with great satisfaction. But like all the international community, we are concerned by the lack of progress at the talks so far. That is why the continuation and development of the dialogue commenced last year by you and President Reagan are a matter of vital importance for the entire world community, brooking no delay. The spirit of Geneva must not be lost.

That is why we call on you and President Reagan to meet again as early as possible in accordance with the accord reached at Geneva. We again call on both your countries to refrain from further nuclear tests, at least before this meeting, in order to prepare the ground for an agreement on a mutual and verifiable moratorium.

[Signed] Raul Alfonsin, Argentina; Rajiv Gandhi, India; Julius Nyerere, Tanzania; Ingvar Carlsson, Sweden; Miguel de la Madrid, Mexico; Andreas Papandreou, Greece

Gorbachev Replies

PM051149 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] The reply of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to a message from Mr Raul Alfonsin, president of Argentina; Mr Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India; Mr Miguel de la Madrid, president of Mexico; Mr Julius Nyerere, Tanzania; Mr Ingvar Carlsson, prime minister of Sweden; Mr Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of Greece:

Dear sirs,

I thank you for the message of 8 April 1986 and for the support you expressed in it for our efforts to terminate nuclear testing. I share the concern you expressed over the dangerous development of world events and share your considerations concerning concrete steps and actions that could be taken, primarily by the USSR and the United States, with a view to removing the nuclear threat that looms over mankind. I believe that you are absolutely right in the assessement of the importance of the termination of nuclear testing as a measure that would hold back the further modernization of nuclear arms and would promote a decrease of the nuclear threat.

The message was received at the time when the United States, in spite of the demands of broad sections of the world public, in defiance of appeals made by statesmen in countries on different contingents, staged nuclear tests on 10 April and also on 22 April 1986. You certainly understand that this challenging act substantially changed the situation.

We made repeated warnings, both publicly and in our correspondence with President Reagan, that the Soviet Union could not extend its unilateral moratorium forever. By not conducting either tests or peaceful explosions over a long period of time, our country took a certain risk. During our moratorium, the United States carried on with the implementation of large-scale military programs, including within the framework of the so-called 'Strategic Defense Initiative.' Nuclear explosions at the Nevada test range are a component part of these programs.

In such conditions, we were compelled to lift the unilateral commitment we voluntarily took not to conduct any nuclear explosions, because we cannot waive our own security and the security of our allies and friends. I repeat the actions of the U.S. compelled us to make this decision.

However, even in this new situation the Soviet Union is firmly determined to continue working, persevering consistently toward solving the acute problem of the complete termination of nuclear testing -- a problem that allows no delay. We continue to count on your valuable support in this cause.

I would like to emphasize that the Soviet Union is doing everything necessary to make a bilateral Soviet U.S. moratorium a reality. We are prepared to return at any moment to the question of a mutual moratorium if the United States does not conduct nuclear tests. We supported the idea expressed by you earlier that the USSR and the United States refrain from nuclear testing for the period until another summit meeting. Even now, following an 8-month interval in nuclear tests in the USSR, we are in no hurry to resume them. However, Washington's reaction to all this remains negative.

I can add to this that we cannot regard the broadly advertised 'reply' of Washington to our calls for ending nuclear explosions -- that is, the invitation for our experts to be present during the explosions in Nevada -- in any other way than an outrage on common sense. In this way they want to put us in the delusive position of "cooperation" in the arms race, not in its termination.

The prohibition of nuclear weapon tests on an international law basis remains the principal task. It can be accomplished as a result of negotiations. In order to set this process in motion, it is necessary to try out all the existing opportunities on that score. As you know, we proposed to the United States to open bilateral talks on the termination of nuclear testing. The USSR also favors the resumption of tripartite talks on that matter and recently raised this question before Mrs Thatcher again.

The conference on disarmament presents good opportunities for multipartite talks. Finally, we are prepared to reach agreement on the application of the terms of the Moscow Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and underwater to underground nuclear tests as well.

The Soviet Union reaffirms its readiness to consider and use such verification measures, including those suggested by you, that would ensure absolute certainty that an accord on the termination of nuclear testing, should it be reached, is strictly observed by all.

In your message you correctly link the question about a Soviet-American summit meeting with progress in the sphere of arms limitation, with the solution of the question of nuclear testing.

At the meeting in Geneva we agreed with the U.S. President to carry on with the dialogue which, as we believe, should lead to practical results, above all, on matters of security. At the same time, the current actions of the United States are at variance with the task of searching for ways to improve international relations and intensify the positive tendencies that emerged as a result of the Geneva meeting. These actions, let me put it frankly, caused direct damage to the dialogue between the USSR and the United States.

However, considering the urgent character of the question of terminating nuclear tests, we proposed holding a meeting in Europe in the immediate future especially on that matter. This meeting would not replace that on which we agreed in Geneva. At the meeting in Europe, we could reach agreement in principle on the termination of nuclear testing. And then relevant talks could follow for drafting the text of an agreement on that matter. These proposals of our remain in force.

The Soviet Union regards the termination and prohibition of nuclear testing as a very important component part of the movement toward implementing the concept of a nuclear-free world. You can rest assured that in striving for its realization, we are prepared to take the boldest steps on the principle of equal security. We hope that you, too, will continue to promote, by making joint efforts, the establishment of constructive and businesslike cooperation of all peace-loving states in their efforts to ensure international security in the conditions of a nuclear-free world. The main thing now is to stop the slide of mankind toward a nuclear abyss. This is a cause of all and everyone.

[Signed] Respectfully,

M. Gorbachev

REPORT, COMMENT ON SUMMIT OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS

PRAVDA Editorial Article

PM021544 Mowcow PRAVDA in Russian 3 May 86 First Edition p 4

[Editorial article: "From Imperial Positions"]

[Text] As the opening of the Tokyo meeting of leaders from the seven most industrially developed capitalist states comes closer it is becoming more obvious that Washington perceives this meeting not as talks between equal partners but as a kind of inspection review. This is indicated even by the tone of official statements emanating from the transatlantic "suzerain" of the capitalist world.

It is well known that this conference of the "seven" will open under the conditions of a sharp exacerbation of the entire complex of contradictions in mutual relations between the three main capitalist centers, with a simultaneous exacerbation of contradictions between imperialism and the developing countries and peoples. On what basis is the United States attempting to "smooth the rough edges" of these contradictions? An answer to this question is offered by the Western press. It appears that we are talking about the problem of international terrorism. It is on this basis that Washington is counting on transforming the conference of the "seven" into some kind of rallying point for the West's total mobilization against "the common danger threatening the free world."

It is a noteworthy fact that anti-Soviet notes can be persistently heard when this problem is "served up" to the public. In accordance with the inertia of thinking customary for the incumbent political circles in Washington, all kinds of claims about "Soviet expansionism," "support for international terrorism by the Soviet Union," and so on could be heard coming from the presidential aricraft en route to Tokyo.

This presentation of the question has nothing in common with the real state of affairs or our country's policy and is nothing but an attempt to discredit it in the eyes of international -- and particularly West European -- public opinion. Any such calumnies should be resolutely swept aside. Let us recall that the Central Committee Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress said most definitely: "The USSR rejects terrorism in principle and is prepared to cooperate actively with other states to eliminate it."

At the same time the report reveals the causes of this ugly phenomenon. "Crises and conflicts are also the breeding ground for international terrorism," this document says. "Undeclared wars, export of counterrevolution in all its forms, political assassinations, hostage taking, aircraft hijacking, and bomb explosions in streets, airports, and railway stations -- this is the repulsive face of terrorism, and those who inspire it try to cover it up with various cynical fabrications."

It is well known that, instead of activating collective quests for ways to break the deadlock in the conflict situations in the Near and Middle East, in Central America, in southern Africa, and in other seething spots on the planet -- as the interests of universal security imperatively demand -- the United States is doing everything to exacerbate these conflicts still further.

These facts are well known. And if they are again being distorted today it is with a single aim: finding some kind of "rallying point" to bring the allies into line and get them in step with Washington. There is thus an obvious intention to depart from serious discussion of the problems which are really affecting the remaining members of the "big seven" -- there is no time for that, they say, if this kind of "threat" is hanging over the "free world."

And there is even "less time" to discuss the Soviet peace initiatives concerning West Europe and the problems of disarmament and the establishment of a comprehensive international security system. We would not be providing a full picture of the Washington "scenario" if we failed to mention that, apart from everything else, it envisages imposing on the "big seven" a strong-arm approach to the developing countries in terms of all the parameters of mutual relations -- from politics to economics.

Judging by foreign press reports, it is now a question not only of papering over the cracks that have appeared between the United States and Western Europe since the U.S. attack on Libya, but also of trying to create a united front against that country and maybe against Syria and Iran too. In other words, hitching the allies to Washington's declared policy of "neoglobalism."

But can all this be consonant with the interests of Western Europe and Japan? Merely to judge by the reaction to the bombing of Libyan cities the answer will be no. The reaction of the public and ruling circles in most countries to the gangsterlike attack on Libya has shown that the capitals of Western Europe and Japan by no means always equate current U.S. policy and their own security concepts. They are scared that the United States is going too far in its claims to "leadership." It was no accident that French President F. Mitterrand said: "We do not want France, on the pretext of combating terrorism, to become embroiled in international actions which it has been unable to freely examine beforehand." Similar fears are being expressed in other "big seven" countries.

Moreover, the reaction to the attack on Libya has been doubly exacerbated by Washington's reluctance to take account not only of its partners' advice but of their economic interests. It is no secret that the Arab countries, including Libya, are an important source of raw materials and a traditional outlet for European and Japanese goods. Losing that market would be a particular blow under the conditions of the "trade war" which the United States is waging against the "Common Market" and Japan.

The "punitive measures" announced by the U.S. President in his Santa Barbara speech on 31 March as a reaction to the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC hit the Common Market countries' exports of agricultural produce. The new restrictions on imports of steel and high technology from the EEC are accompanied, as the FINANCIAL TIMES writes, by "rhetoric from both sides, loud abuse, and an escalaton of threats." The threats, of course, come from across the ocean. According to the Paris newspaper REVOLUTION, the United States is even "exploiting its position of strength" to renege on commitments previously made to the Common Market. And that strength, measured in hard cash, is manifested in permanent U.S. pressure on the world capitalist economy. That is not all. "There is no point in continuing to pretend," the journal STERN wrote recently, "that there are some notable 'common values' which are constantly cited in solemn speeches when appeals are made for the unity of the North Atlantic alliance. The U.S. bombs and missiles falling on Tripoli and Banghazi did not only kill utterly innocent people, they also destroyed America's NATO loyalty. Anyone who, like a common terrorist, even kills children if the need arises is unfit to lead an alliance."

European press articles on U.S. policy use with increasing frequence the term "obsession with force." Yes, this is manifested in everything. Both in Washington's economic pressure on its partners with the sole aim of solving its own problems, including its $150 billion trade deficit, at their expense. In political pressure, including in all areas of East-West dialogue. And in the approach to the problems of the developing countries and the national liberation movements. "Aircraft carrier diplomacy" is being used increasingly often in the latter case, which only exacerbates regional conflicts and hinders their settlement.

That, in essence, is the aim of Washington's proclaimed "doctrine of neoglobalism." Its authors are quite unambiguously assuming the "right" to decide the fate of whole countries and peoples as they see fit.

It is a dangerous doctrine and, as recent events have shown, a criminal one. Yesterday it was little Greneda. Today Libya. Who will it be tomorrow?

What effect will all this have on the Tokyo talks? Not an easy question to answer. At the present crucial stage in world history America's partners in the "big seven" talks must make a choice which, to a great extent, will determine the character of their future relations with Washington. If the mechanism of "alliance solidarity" works, as it has done more than once in the past, it threatens to turn into the kind of trap from which Western Europe and Japan will find it all too difficult to escape. And that is precisely what Washington wants.

'Mass of Disagreements' Noted

LD040526 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0220 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, 4 May (TASS) -- The 3-day conference of the leaders of the seven leading capitalist states opens in Tokyo today. The preliminary conversations which U.S. President Reagan has held with a number of the participants in the meeting, having arrived in the Japanese capital, already bear witness to the fact that Washington will try to use the conference to get support from its allies for the aggressive action against Libya, to draw them actively into the policy of state terrorism being conducted by the U.S. Administration. The deepening trade and economic contradictions in the triangle, United States-Western Europe-Japan, will become one of the most acute topics of the conference, observers think. As U.S. officials acknowledge, the United States has become bogged down in trade disputes with all the participants in the conference. One can already foresee, the French LIBERATION indicates, a whole mass of disagreements between the participants in the Tokyo meeting, concerning trade, financial, and other problems.

Abe Cited on 'Contradictions'

LD050715 Moscow TASS in English 0705 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Tokyo May 5 TASS -- Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe reported "disagreements" at the seven-nation summit here, which the attendees, he said, will try to iron out during further discussions.

Speaking at a news conference here, he said the sharp contradictions prevented the attending leaders of seven capitalist countries today from adopting a planned joint statement of "international terrorism."

Washington intended to use such a statement for dragging its partners in punitive action against Libya and other countries it dislikes.

'Extremists' Rocket Attack Reported

LD041004 Moscow TASS in English 0938 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tokyo May 4 TASS -- Unknown extremists today made an attempt to fire three home-made missiles at the Akasaka Palace where the opening ceremony of a summit of seven leading capitalist countries was taking place, but the rockets missed their target.

One of them fell instead on the territory of the Canadian Embassy but caused no damage.

WESTERN REACTION TO CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT CONSIDERED

TASS Denounces 'Apocalyptic Pictures'

LD031713 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 3 May (TASS) -- TASS Political Observer Sergey Kulik writes:

In other times and under different systems of ethics, gentlemen getting themselves into a situation similar to the one in which many Western political figures now find themselves after describing "horrors" and "catastrophic consequences" of the accident at Chernobyl AES would have shot themselves in the head in order to save their honor or avoid dishonor. In our times, one might throw oneself from the window of a skyscraper.

But there have as yet been no reports from any Western capital of suicides for the sake of preserving political honor. Evidently, those who over the past few days have been asserting that "Chernobyl has been turned into a dead ghost town," that the radiation level in the zone where the station is "is 2000 times higher than during the Hiroshima atomic bomb explosion," and that "an entire huge agricultural area in the heart of the Ukraine, its land and waters, has become a danger to man for an indeterminate lengthy period, have nothing to save. [quotation marks as received]

On 2 May Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Yegor Ligachev, member of the CPSU Cental Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the area of the Chernobyl atomic station. Together with leaders of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and of the government of the Ukranian SSR, they examined the measures being taken to eliminate the seat of the accident at the fourth power unit of the AES, and the normalization of the situation in the area. During their meeting with the people, the discussion dealt with the organization of the daily life of the workers, trade, medical services, and the world of school and preschool institutions. All this is very far from the apocalyptic pictures taken by dishonest politicians from Hollywood films and transferred by them with malicious intent to the Soviet land.... [TASS ellipses]

In the West, the accident in Chernobyl has not only been turned into a sensation -- shameless anti-Soviets and anti-communists have used it for their dirty political goals. In the beginning, gullible Westerners were being persuaded that not two people, which is the true number, but a minimum of 2,000 were killed at the AES. This was done to prove that "the USSR never tells the truth." Then, on the "evidence" of a single photograph of a building with a hole in the roof, they endeavored to prove to the average American and West European that "the greatest disaster in the history of the mastering of atomic energy" had happened in Chernobyl, which allegedly proves the bakcwardness of the USSR."

After this, the United States and England began demonstratively to recall their tourists who were in Kiev, 130 km away from the place of the accident, reviling Moscow for an alleged "coverup of data about high radioactivity" and, at the same time, making much of their own human concerned.

Of course, for those who send bombers to drop a fatal load on Libyan towns, arm the "contras" in Nicaragua and the dushmans in Afghanistan, pay hired murderers in Angola, there is nothing left to do but engage in self-advertisement when talk turns to humanism.

In order to divert the world public from its own actions, which threaten the whole world; not to allow the Europeans time to think about how 15,000 U.S. nuclear warheads situated in old, overpopulated Europe, are threatening them; or about how the accident of the U.S. submarine like the one that ran aground into the cliffs of Gibraltar the other day may turn out for the Mediterranean; in Washington they have also organized an anti-Soviet pandemonium around what has happened at an atomic power station.

The White House and its sidekicks need this rumpus to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union and its peaceful initiatives, and to place in doubt the very possibility of holding talks and reaching an agreement with the USSR. It is not for nothing that M. Thatcher intends, clearly at Washington's directions, to attempt to insert into the text of the communique at the conference of the leaders of the seven major capitalist countries in Tokyo a statement on "the Russians' urge to surround everything with excessive secrecy." As the British FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper admits, this statement gives the West an opportunity to continue to "take an attitude of mistrust toward the Soviet Union's pledges in the field of verifying the observance of any agreement on arms control."

In demanding "some more news" and "some more facts" from Chernobyl, the politicking politicians who have lost their sense of shame and conscience, await only bad news and bad "facts." And it is doubtful if they will be sobered by reports that the situation in the area of the atomic station is getting back to normal.

Washington Encourages 'Hysteria'

LD041446 Moscow TASS in English 1129 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Prague May 4 TASS -- The breakdown at the Chernobyl power station immediately riveted universal attention in the world, RUDE PRAVO writes today. Words of sympathy are being addressed to the Soviet Government. Positively appraised are the energetic actions of the members of local government bodies and the courageous efforts by Soviet specialists and rescue services to localize the radioactive contamination source which sprang up as a result of the breakdown.

Underlying the extraordinary event is the misfortune that befell people. It is from this fact that a stand of the international public should have been formed. One cannot but see that immediately after the TASS announcement of the breakdown at the Chernobyl atomic power station, the event because a springboard for unworthy speculations and for the piling up of lies and accusations.

High-ranking officials in Washington are using the breakdown, the first one in the history of the Soviet nuclear power industry, for a political blackmail against the USSR, and are seeking to blow it up into a political problem in international relations. In so doing they in Washington display a surprising forgetfulness to the effect that nothing of the kind had ostensibly happened in the United States.

"The leading circles of some NATO countries, and first of all those of the United States and Britain, are seeking to drum up a veritable hysteria around the breakdown. The hysterical campaign is centering of anti-communism, anti-Sovietism and on endeavours to strain international relations and to accuse the USSR and the entire socialist world at any cost. We are witnessing obvious attempts at driving a wedge between the USSR and other countries, neighbouring European ones, in the first place". [quotation marks as received]

This is, finally, also an obvious attempt to divert attention from the main issues of our times which the Soviet Union brings up in the international arena, including proposals on ending any nuclear tests, and on banning chemical weapons, not to mention the set of proposals concerning nuclear and conventional arms.

The rapid progress of science and technology brings with it not only successes but also material losses as well as loss of life. Not a single sector of human endeavour is an exception in this respect. Mankind has to pay for every advance. The study of outer space does not do without victims either. One can recall the 25th, seemingly perfectly rehearsed, launch of the American spaceplane.

This also applies to researchers in the field of the atomic power industry. There can be no exception in this field, although extraordinary and costly measures are taken to ensure people's safety. Man's endeavours to master all forces of nature cannot be regarded as finished.

The friends of the Soviet Union are standing at these moments by its side with full understanding. They are full of indestructible belief in Soviet science which does its best to make the natural environment serve man, and to make the atom -- the source of tremendous destructive and creative power -- serve only peace. This is the main thing which stands behind the resolute efforts of the Soviet people. This is the reply to the question that is behind the hysteria launched by certain circles of the capitalist world around the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

Western Media Reports 'Unscrupulous'

LD041259 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 4 May 86

[Igor Charikov commentary]

[Text] As for the issue of the anti-Soviet hullabaloo abroad in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES, I have in front of me a TASS dispatch from London; it cites the opinions of two of today's British newspapers on one and the same theme. THE OBSERVER newspaper reports, in particular, that on 31 March of this year -- that is just over a month ago -- a serious incident occurred at the Dungeness atomic power station in Kent County. The technical details of this incident are described but they are not what is important. An explosion occurred and was followed by a leak of gas contaminated by radioactive substances. However, the appropriate British offices chose to surround what had happened with a thick veil of silence, and supplied some information only after persistent questions. Another British newspaper, THE GUARDIAN, writes today [as heard; THE GUARDIAN is not published on Sundays] that the accident at Dungeness is far from being the only one in Britain. A major disaster, which claimed 13 lives and also maimed over 260 people, occurred just over a quarter of a century ago at the Sellafield plant. After this accident, the scale of which, as in the first instance, the authorities tried to hide by all possible means, the electric power station was renamed. One would think that definite steps were taken to ensure greater safety at this station, but all the same, in the course of the first 3 months of this year alone, nuclear alarms have already sounded there four times.

In reporting the information with which I have acquainted you, comrades, the two respectable British newspapers put the issue of accidents at atomic power stations of the following plane: Unfortunately, such accidents do happen. Not one enterprise that processes nuclear fuel into electrical energy is 100-percent insured against them. This is the opinion of all scientists and engineers. Of course, there are accidents which are insignificant and those which lead to serious consequences.

However, must one whip up sensationalism around every incident and deliberately exaggerate its scale? I don't think so. After all, one can't assist in the efficient elimination of the consequences [of nuclear accidents] with either newspaper hullabaloo or sensational radio and television reports. On the contrary, this diverts the attention of the broad public from the essence of the problem and creates an unhealthy ballyhoo which may be exploited -- and, as we see with the example of the accident at the Chernobyl AES, for unsightly, provocative aims.

In this instance, an attempt is being made to evoke ill-disposed and, if it can be managed, openly hostile feelings toward the Soviet Union. By the way, in the United States itself more than 20,000 various incidents and defects have occurred at atomic electrical power stations over the last 7 years. Comrades, I am convinced you will agree with me: Far be it from us to gloat over the number of casualties in every individual incident. We won't begin relating to the Americans worse or in a less benevolent fashion just because somewhere -- let's say, in the State of Pennsylvania -- a major explosion has occurred. I cannot recall a single instance where our press, television, or radio has whipped up nervousness, fear, or other similar emotions. And against this background the diligence of the Western mass information media in this regard seems not only absurd but also unscrupulous.

While our program has been on the air, I have been brought a dispatch with an account of an article in the Czechoslovak newspaper RUDE PRAVO. I shall read some excerpts from it; quote: One cannot fail to see that immediately after the TASS announcement of the accident at the Chernobyl AES, this event became a springboard for unworthy speculation and for piles of lies and accusations, unquote. This is what the newspaper RUDE PRAVO thinks. The rapid progress of science and technology, the newspaper goes on to write, brings with it not only successes, but also sacrifices; material and human. No area of human activity is an exception, the article says, and it concludes: At this time, the friends of the Soviet Union stand at its side with full understanding; they are full of unshakeable faith in Soviet science, which is doing all to ensure that the environment serves man, and that the atom - that source of vast destructive and creative power - serves only peace.

NATO 'DISTANT HAMMER-86' MANEUVERS BEGIN

LD041344 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 4 May 86

[Excerpts] The NATO "Distant Hammer - 86" maneuvers begin today in Italy and Turkey. The United States also intends to hold more maneuvers in Latin America. They will be held in Honduras jointly with the Honduran Army. U.S. artillery and Air Force training will be carried out just 5 km from the Nicaraguan border. Particularly alarming is the fact that, as announced by the Pentagon, the U.S. military personnel have orders to begin real military operations if, I quote, there is any threat to their security. That is a very vague formula: Such an order can rather be seen as permission to act according to their own inclindations. And what their inclinations are, the U.S. soldiery have already demonstrated off the coast of Libya.

REPORTAGE ON EXPLOSION OF DELTA ROCKET

'Special' Importance Noted

LD040356 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0212 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] New York, 4 May (TASS) -- The U.S. Delta booster rocket, which should have carried a meteorological satellite into orbit, exploded shortly after lift-off from the space center at Cape Canaveral. As a representative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) stated, 70 seconds after lift-off, the main engine of the rocket suddenly switched off, the rocket lost its steering, and went out of control. As a result, the safety service was forced to destroy the rocket upon a command from earth. Wreckage of the 35-meter rocket, which blew up like a fireball, fell into the Atlantic Ocean. Earlier the launch was postponed for 48 hours because of a leakage of fuel in the main engine. NASA considered the Delta rockets to be the most reliable ones.

As the AP agency notes, special significance was attached to the present launch, since it was the first lift-off from Cape Canaveral since the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle on 28 January during which seven astronauts on board perished. The agency also recalls that on 18 April a Titan-34 D rocket blew up in mid-air after being launched from the U.S. Air Force base in Vandenberg (California), which, as was reported, was to carry the latest spy satellite into orbit.

[Moscow TASS in English at 0917 GMT on 4 May adds: "Despite all this the United States has pressed on frantically with its space program which is geared in significant measure to militarizing outer space. "The latest catastrophe underlines the mendacity of U.S. claims that U.S. rocket technology, which is a mainstay of the "star wars" program, is absolutely failsafe.

"Every further accident makes still clearer the dangers flowing to mankind from the SDI project."]

Reagan To Continue Program

LD041459 Moscow TASS in English 0856 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tokyo May 4 TASS -- Despite major and sometimes tragic setbacks, the United States is going to press on with its militarist space program, white House spokesman Larry Speakes said in Tokyo before a summit meeting of seven leading capitalist countries here.

President Reagan, he said, was "concerned and disappointed" by yet another accident yesterday, in which a U.S. Delta booster rocket exploded shortly after launch, but was "determined to continue" the space program.

News agencies say that after January 28, when the Challenger space shuttle blew up, killing all seven U.S. astronauts aboard, the Delta mishap has been the third major failure of U.S. spacecraft over this very short time.

Commentators say that the prime causes behind these two frequent accidents and disasters have been haste and faulty technical systems.

The Delta liftoff had been put off for two days because of fuel leaks from the main engine but NASA, considering this type of rocket to be the most reliable, decided nevertheless to go ahead with the mission which ended in a powerful blast in midair.

NEVADA TEST SITE 'INCIDENT' DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE

LD031019 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0645 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] San Francisco, 3 May (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Yuriy Ustimenko reports:

Another incident has occurred at the Reiner-Mesa nuclear test site in Nevada. As the KLAS television company reports in Las Vegas, during a recent nuclear test, electronic equipment worth $70 million was damaged by a blast wave because equipment designed to ensure safety did not work. This took place on 10 April during underground testing of a nuclear device that was being held under the code name "Mighty Oak" within the "star wars" program.

In March 1984, at the very same Reiner Mesa test site in Nevada, an area of subsidence almost 10 meters deep formed following an underground nuclear explosion. Fifteen people in the area of the epicenter were injured. One of them later died in a Las Vegas hospital.

Commenting on these incidents, the press is noting the considerable contradictions between the facts and the public statements of the authorities on its causes. So, a spokesman for the Energy Department gave assurances that the area of subsidence in 1984 allegedly appeared "accidentally" of its own accord. However, as THE LOS ANGELES TIMES wrote, shortly before the test geologists carefully studied the granite rock in the test site area and found no anomalies.

'Radioactive Contamination' Cited

LD041307 Moscow TASS in English 1253 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] New York May 4 TASS — A nuclear explosion at the Rainier Mesa testing range in Nevada on April 10 to test the effects radiation has on military equipment experienced serious complications, THE NEW YORK TIMES quoted administration officials as saying. Debris from the blast struck the equipment that was to be tested and produced radioactive contamination. No further details have so far been reported.

An administration spokesman said on May 2 that "we think it might be a matter of several more weeks before we are able to get in" the contaminated area.

'STAR WARS' PROGRAM REPORTEDLY ACCELERATING

LD050651 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Washington May 5 TASS -- Despite a series of major setbacks in its space programme, the United States is speeding up 'star wars' preparations and it will be able to place space weapons of the first generation early in 1990s, reports the newspaper WASHINGTON POST.

The cost of designing and placing that weapon, which includes combat orbital stations, the Pentagon representatives believe, might run into hundreds of billions of dollars. In the future it is planned to place space systems of the second generation, including laser units, and also the third generation, specifically combat systems powered by nuclear blast energy. As is believed by former U.S. Defence Secretary James Schlesinger, the militarist 'star wars' programme will cost the United States not less than a trillion dollars.

U.S. SENATE APPROVES DRAFT FEDERAL BUDGET

LD022023 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Washington May 2 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev reports: After a protracted and stormy debate the U.S. Senate approved on Friday the draft federal budget for the fiscal year 1987.

The draft's distinguishing feature is astronomical appropriations for the arms race and a drastic cut in allocations for social programmes. The military budget is approved at 301 billion dollars. Though this is nearly 20 billion dollars less than the administration asked for, however, firstly, not a single major programme for developing weapons has been affected by these "cuts." Secondly, it follows from a statement made by a White House spokesman that the President does not believe that this is the final say by Congress on the size of appropriations for military preparations.

The president, the spokesman pointed out, counts on a more acceptable level of military expenditures. A whole series of discussions and approvals of the draft budget are in store, and, as experience of previous years shows, legislators often yielded eventually to cajoling and threats of the White House and the Pentagon.

The extremely high level of military expenditures had necessitated cuts in allocations for social services. According to "THE WASHINGTON POST", the draft approved by the Senate provides for complete abolition of 12 programmes. Allocations for many others will be substantially slashed. The sum of cuts amounts nearly to 10 billion dollars.

The draft also provides for some increase in taxes, above all in excise duties.

In the next few days the draft budget will be debated by the U.S. House of Representatives.

'TOP PRIORITY' DISCUSSES INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

LD040144 Moscow World Service in English 1510 GMT 3 May 86

["Top Priority" weekly panel discussion presented by Vladimir Pozner with Prof Radomir Bogdanov and Prof Sergey Plekhanov of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States of America and Canada Institute]

[Excerpts] [Pozner] How do you do ladies and gentlemen, this is Vladimir Pozner presenting "Top Priority." With me on the panel today are Professors Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of Moscow's prestigious U.S. and Canada Institute.

Recently when talking with Americans I've heard time and time again that the Soviet Union supports terrorism and that what happened in Libya, for example didn't have to happen had the Soviet Union exercised its own influence over Libya and stopped it from doing different kinds of terrorist acts, but that on the contrary the USSR is a country that has supported and does support terrorism. I think that that's a very serious kind of statement to make and I believe we should look at it quite closely. Gentlemen, who'd like to begin? Professor Bogdanov.

[Bogdanov] Yah. I believe that it's very, very, really it's very serious kind of accusation which is based on ignorance, on a lack of knowledge. That's why let me say few things for our listeners about our knowledge of terrorism. Because maybe some of our listeners may believe that terrorism is really new phenomena, new phenomena which concerns only America. But as to my country, we knew that phenomena about, well, more than 40 years ago, even more than that. For instance, let me remind my listeners over that our leader, Lenin, was a target, was a victim of terrorism. Let me remind...

[Pozner, interrupting] This is 1918.

[Bogdanov] Nineteen eighteen. He was, he was...

[Pozner, interrupting] Shot.

[Bogdanov] Shot by two bullets and after that his health was broken, you know, so we know what [words indistinct]. We know several cases of terrorism against our party leaders, against party functionaries (?we said that) but if you come back to the history we had the whole political movement which [several words indistinct] was fighting against tsarist regime with the means of terrorism, and by the way, at that time Lenin said no, we won't go this way. [passage indistinct] And let me say that that was the beginning of our shaping our position about terrorism, and from the very beginning 'til now we condemn terrorism and if some people, some, you know, quarters, are spreading rumors, I cannot tell them, but rumors, about our position, that we are supporting terrorism, it's absolute nonsense which is based, as I said already, on nonsense, on ignorance, absolute ignorance. Now, if you just would like of course that I support my views by facts.

Very recently, very recently our leader, general secretary of the Communist Party, has stated on the highest possible level that terrorism is a thing which should be fought very energetically and that it's not a civilized behavior, that it's very wrong and things like that...

[Pozner] Let me interrupt you just for 1 minute. Professor Plekhanov, how do you feel about what you've heard so far? Do you agree that basically Soviet policy, and, if you wish, perhaps even morality is antiterrorist historically?

[Plekhanov] Oh, absolutely, absolutely. As Professor Bogdanov has said, we — there were debates in the Russian revolutionary movement way back during the tsarist time in Russia and that debate was very solidly resolved in favor of a nonterrorist approach to political struggles. And one very important reason was that there is a (?thing) — there is an interaction between private terrorism and state supported terrorism that often terrorists provoked states to take very drastic repressive measure against the people, against democratic forces and so on and so forth. And I think that that moment is very important because right now we see terrorism, the threat of terrorism, the phenomena of terrorism, which is a real thing in the world today, a very (?murky) phenomenon and I don't think that one can, with any degree of credibility, take the official American explanations of what is behind terrorism, because the real story is far from open, as yet. The jury is still out.

The jury is not -- no longer out on the case of assassination attempt on John Paul II which was, as everybody remembers, was pinned on the Bulgarians and there was a long, very long, trial in Rome which ended with the clear cut answer that, you know, there's absolutely no grounds.

[Posner] Well actually it wasn't just pinned on the Bulgarians. If my memory is right it was said that the Soviets masterminded the plan and the Bulgarians were the hit men who went in there and did it.

[Plekhanov] Oh yes, Claire Sterling made a lot of money...

[Pozner, interrupting] Yes we know that story.

[Plekhanov] [Words indistinct] selling her book around the world, made the television special and so on and so forth.

[Bogdanov] In place of her publisher I would ask (?those) money back because it was the wrong story.

[Pozner] But nevertheless what happened to Pope John Paul II was an act of terrorism, you'll agree with that.

[Plekhanov] Absolutely, absolutely but this is an interesting case. Now the Soviet Union is in favor of concerted international action against that. That would involve a lot of exchange of information on terrorism, (?now what) I can understand that in a case like for instance the assassination attempt on John Paul II which was done by the far right group in Turkey, which is, according to a lot of reports, has ties with some Western secret services. (?Apparently)...

[Pozner, interrupting] And perhaps U.S...

[Plekhanov] Yeah, perhaps U.S. and others, so, you know, information on that. I mean one has to have very clean hands to come out into the open with a rational solution to this problem. The other reason why the United States is not interested in a diplomatic and international approach to that is the threat of terrorism is used as a pretext to give the United States an opportunity to come out as a defender of international law, defender of the world against terrorism because international law suffers, is the first victim acutally. In this case, like in the case of Libya, the United States violated brazenly international law on the pretext that the violation of law is necessary in order to defeat the threat of terrorism, even though no evidence has been presented by the United States to link Libya to those terrorist acts in West Berlin and other places which took place. I'm afraid that we may have here a case similar to that of the assassination attempt on John Paul II, when the real story is far, far different from what is said by the U.S. Government.

[Bogdanov] You have touched upon many, many interesting points, for instance a share of information with the interested government in trying to fight terrorism. If United States is aiming to kill a political leader of the sovereign country, as it was in the case of Libya, how we can share information with them, or cooperate with them in that (?field)? It absolutely, it excludes any cooperation because it's illegal, it's a violation, it's a gross violation of international law. Number 2, you know, our historical experience, not only ours but I believe many other countries' (?shall we say), if you fight terrorists with the same means they are fighting against you, you come only to one end: You have an upsurge of terrorism.

[Plekhanov] Even more terrorism.

[Bogdanov] More terrorism, that's what Russian, Russian history says. The more tsarist government was sending them to prison, killing them you know, hanging them, the more terrorism they had and more violent cases they had, including killings [as heard] of the tsar. You know that was the result of this (?fight), so to fight against terrorism with the same means means to provoke another wave of terrorism. Now let me say something which you may not agree with me, but that thought has been you know, in my mind for several days now. You might remember that when Japan was nuclear, nuked, in '45.

[Pozner] It wasn't nuked, they weren't nuclear weapons.

[Bogdanov] Nuclear weapons, yeah.

[Pozner] A-bombed.

[Bogdanov] A-bombed, atomized, yeah, of course it's too modern, atomized, there was a discussion among politicians and among historians, would United States atomize Germans if they had already ready nuclear bombs? So what was meant by that? A kind of racial element, and some people say that Japan was bombed, bombed, because of a racial, a racial approach of American political elite to that Asian country.

[Plekhanov] You mean because the Japanese were non-white?

[Bogdanov] Yes, non-white. You put it very bluntly. Now what comes to my mind, you know? Libya. Would America dare to bomb, for instance, I don't know which country but not Arab, not Asian, just some, as you put it white country, that's my question? So I tend to believe that in this case we have another example of racial terrorism.

[Pozner] So that's your answer?

[Bogdanov] That's my answer, that's my answer, because knowing the way of thinking of these people in this administration I come to the conclusion by attacking Libya they were attacking the whole Third World, signalling to them in case that's what we are going to do with you.

[Pozner] (?No, no.)

[Bogdanov] May be I am wrong, but my...

[Pozner, interrupting] I frankly find it somewhat difficult to accept that you, although you certainly have the right to (?insist) I'd like to come back to the, to the Soviet Union, we began by talking about that, and as you, Professor Plekhanov, how do you explain the Soviet negative attitude towards terrorism in principle? Because if you do look at the United States I think you have to admit, although Americans won't, but I think you have to admit that state terrorism in the United States has been used many many times in the past. What I'm asking you is why do you think the Soviet position is so anti-terrorism? What is the grain of that?

[Plekhanov] Well the grain is that we don't believe in violence as a way of solving political problems. We think that this is not the way and the state, of course the state, any state has to use force, deterrence, and in some cases when all other means of upholding law and order are, you know, do not work.

[Pozner] Using force is not necessarily terror.

[Plekhanov] No, no, no, not necessarily. A policeman can use force against criminals if he cannot apprehend them in any other way. So there is [word indistinct] but state terrorism is another thing. In the first place state terrorism is illegal. It's usually done on the sly, it's done -- it's called covert action by those people who are engaged in that, and it's done in violation of the existing laws, international law and domestic law, precisely because this is something that the law would forbid. So this is doing some things and using such methods which are clearly not what the government is supposed to do. Terrorism is immoral, of course. There are cases when people driven to desperation resort to terrorism because they have no other way.

[Bogdanov] It's not an excuse, by the way.

[Plekhanov] It's not an excuse.

[Bogdanov] But an explanation.

[Plekhanov] It's just an explanation and I think that from that explanation one should go to the problem of really eliminating those conditions which spawn terrorism.

[Bogdanov] I agree with my friend and colleague Sergey, with his way of thinking, but I would like to add just one thing. We have a historical dispute between Russian revolutionary movements. Which way is more efficient, to get your political end? One way was terroristic actions, killings, [word indistinct] general, you know, (?big bosses and influence), things like that. And the other way was Lenin's way just to get a revolution by the means of popular movement, by building political consensus in the country on the base of which you make a revolution. So that historical dispute was resolved once for ever. We don't believe in violent terroristic actions for reaching your political end. That belongs to the past. We believe in political action based on popular consensus and support, and I believe that is why, that's why in principle we are against terrorism because terrorism makes (?birth) for another terrorism, you know things like that. And, of course, we cannot support uncivilized behavior which brings death to absolutely innocent people, including sometimes children, which is absolutely unbearable, you know, uncivilized. And if you could, you know, find out ways and means to join our world effort or whatever it is, to fight this (?plague) really, this (?plague), that would be excellent for all of us and that's what we should think about very seriously.

[Pozner] Thank you, Professor Bogdanov, Professor Plekhanov. Until next time this is Vladimir Pozner inviting you to join in and listen to "Top Priority."

KARMAL RESIGNS; NAJIBULLAH ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY

LD042024 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1850 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 4 May (TASS) -- As the BAKHTAR agency has reported, the 18th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, which examined an organizational question, was held here today under the chairmanship of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers. At the plenum, a request from Babrak Karmal to be released from his duties as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee on health grounds, was read out and discussed.

A statement from B. Karmal notes: "I have dedicated all my conscious life to the party, to the cause of the revolution, to the glorious industrious Afghan people, to our beloved homeland, Afghanistan. Now I am sure that the PDPA leadership in the future will continue to strengthen and develop our party's glorious heroic traditions. I call on you, party comrades, in the future to continue to preserve party unity as the thing most dear to you. Preserve the unity and the monolithic character of the PDPA and strive for the cohesion of the peoples, nationalities, and tribes of our beloved homeland, for a unified Afghanistan, on the basis of the principles of equity, patriotism, internationalism, and devotion to the ideals of the revolution."

After stressing the need to preserve and develop in all ways possible the historic and indestructible Afghan-Soviet friendship, B. Karmal writes in his statement: "I consider it my patriotic and internationalist duty to express once again at this moment my feelings of deepest gratitude to the CPSU leadership, the Soviet Government, and the great Russian people for all-round internationalist selfless help to our long-suffering people."

The plenum met Babrak Karmal's request to be released from the duties of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee on health grounds. The PDPA Central Committee plenum expressed gratitude to Babrak Karmal for his many years of work in the post of PDPA Central Committee general secretary and for his contribution to the cause of the April Revolution, and wished him success in his activities as a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

The plenum unanimously elected Najibullah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Comrade Najibullah is well-known in the party and among the people, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, speaking at the plenum. His whole life is an example of faithful service to the PDPA and our people. Many of those present are personally acquainted with his revolutionary activities during his student years. On the instructions of the Central Committee Politburo, Comrade Najibullah with Comrade Karmal, was engaged in creating and strengthening the party, and he headed the Central Committee commission on organizational work.

His revolutionary abilities were shown in the post of head of the state information service. Under the leadership of the Central Committee, and with the help of the whole party, he created this organization and helped it become an authoritative, powerful arm of the revolution, and a faithful defender of the new order against imperialist aggression, regional reaction, and internal counterrevolution. Comrade Najibullah made a great contribution to the creation of a new type of DRA Armed Forces.

Doing justice to his principledness, energy, and profound learning, the 16th PDPA Central Committee plenum unanimously elected Comrade Najibullah Central Committee secretary, and the Politburo entrusted him with difficult and decisive spheres of work: party organizational work and military questions.

Typical of Comrade Najibullah are his desire for a collegiate approach and a collective leadership, and his respectful attitude toward the veiws of his comrades in the party and the Politburo, of which he has been a member since 1981.

Comrade Najibullah is a faithful son of the Afghan people, a tempered warrior of the party. He is known as an internationalist and a great friend of the Soviet Union. He took part in the 27th CPSU Congress as a part of the official PDPA Central Committee delegation.

Comrade Najibullah was born in 1947 in the family of an office worker and is by nationality a Pashtun. In 1964 he left the Lycee Habibya and in 1975 completed studies at the medical faculty of Kabul University. Comrade Najibullah joined the PDPA. In its ranks, he has taken part actively in the revolutionary struggle against the feudal-ureaucratic regime, for which he was twice imprisoned. Since the first days of the victory of the April Revolution, he has been working fruitfully on the establishment and strengthening of people's power and implementing progressive socieconomic reform.

In 1978 he was engaged in diplomatic work. In 1979, as an experienced party worker, he was sent by the PDPA Central Committee to be head of the state information service. He holds the military rank of lieutenant general. He has been awarded orders for his military and labor services.

Since 1977 Comrade Najibullah has been a member of the PDPA Central Committee and since 1981 a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. He is a member of the DRA Revolutionary Council. At the 16th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najibullah was elected secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

NEW ROUND OF AFGHAN-PAKISTANI TALKS OPEN

LD051054 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Geneva May 5 TASS -- Another round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are conducted through the U.N. secretary-general's personal envoy Diego Cordovez, opened in the Geneva Place of Nations today.

The Afghan delegation to the negotiations is led by Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost and the Pakistani delegation is headed by his Pakistani opposite number Shabzada Yagub Khan.

The Swiss press says that the talks will cover the problems of achieving a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, the international guarantees security and non-interference in the domestic affairs of Democratic Afghanistan, and other issues.

SOKOLOV WELCOMES GDR'S KESSLER; TALKS HELD

LD051119 Moscow TASS in English 1053 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS -- General of the Army Heinz Kessler, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, minister of national defence of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), arrived in Moscow today for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the minister of defence of the USSR.

At the airport General of the Army Heinz Kessler and persons accompanying him were met by Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of defence of the USSR.

Later in the day Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov had a meeting with General of the Army Heinz Kessler. They had a warm and friendly conversation during which matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Defense Discussed

LD051051 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1024 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 5 May (ADN) -- A friendly meeting took place in Moscow on Monday between Army General Heinz Kessler, GDR minister for national defense and member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, and Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, USSR minister of defense and candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. During the meeting at the USSR Defense Ministry, they underlined the resolve of the two fraternal countries' Armies to reliably fulfill their tasks for the protection of peace together with the Armed Forces of the other Warsaw Pact member-states.

FALUVEGI, TALYZIN VIEW EXPANSION COOPERATION

LD292100 Budapest MTI in English 1821 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, April 29 (MTI) -- Lajow Faluvegi, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, president of the National Planning Office held talks in Moscow Tuesday with Nikolay Talyzin, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, president of the State Planning Commission. Within the framework of continuous plan coordination they discussed new forms of expanding economic relations and long-term cooperation.

ZIMYANIN-LED DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR POLAND

LD050844 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Following an invitation by the Polish Republic Sejm, a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Mikhail Vasiliyevich Zimyanin, CPSU Central Committee secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, left Moscow for Warsaw on 5 May on an official friendly visit.

At the airport the delegation was seen off by Comrade Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other officials. Among those seeing the delegation off was Comrade Natorf, Polish ambassador to the USSR.

REPORTAGE ON EIGHTH GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

PRAVDA Greets

PM021436 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To the Eighth German Communist Party Congress

Dear Comrades!

We send you Soviet Communists' cordial fraternal greetings in connection with the major event in the life of the German Communist Party [DK] -- the opening of its eighth congress.

More than ever before our era is placing the lofty responsibility for the fate of mankind on all the forces of progress, and primarily on Communists. Will they cross the threshold of the 3d millennium optimistically looking to the future, will they succeed in inflicting a resolute defeat on the imperialist forces of war and reaction, or will people continue to live in fear of the threat of dying in the flames of a nuclear catastrophe? Communists are called upon to make their contribution to solving this and many other urgent questions that are currently alarming the broadest masses worldwide.

We are confident that your eighth congress and its decisions will play an important role in mobilizing DKP members to resolve the great tasks currently facing your party in the struggle for the vital interests of FRG working people and will promote the further pooling of the efforts of all the country's responsible, left-wing, and democratic forces under the banner of peace and social progress.

In this struggle you can, as before, be sure of the indissoluble solidarity of the communists of Lenin's party and of the fact that the CPSU will continue to strengthen the bonds of fraternal friendship between our parties in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

We wish the Eighth DKP Congress complete success in its work.

With communist greetings,

The CPSU Central Committee

Yeltsin Speaks

LD022057 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 May 86

[Correspondent Vladimir Konoratyev report on the Eighth German Communist Party Congress in Hamburg with recorded speech made by Boris Yeltsin, head of the visiting CPSU delegation, to the congress on 2 May -- from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Kondratyev] This major city [Hamburg -- FBIS] of the FRG was chosen specially as the venue for the congress -- it is here that the great work done by West Berman Communists at enterprises, in the trade unions, and in the city districts is particularly visible. The authority of the German Communist Party in the international communist and workers movement is high. Visitors from nearly fifty countries have come to the congress. The delegation from the CPSU is headed by Comrade Yeltsin. The motto of the Hamburg congress is: For a new policy, peace without nuclear weapons, and work for all.

Herbert Mies, the party's chairman, who gave the report, called for practical steps in the field of security. The FRG must influence the U.S. Government position, he said, to make it join in the Soviet Union's proposal to end all nuclear explosions. The DKP chairman noted that the Communists and many detachments of the antiwar movement in the FRG have stressed in the Soviet disarmament proposals new impulses for their own peace struggle.

After an interval, Comrade Yeltsin made a speech to the congress: [Yeltsin] Permit me to convey to the congress delegates and to all Communists in the DKP the friendly greetings and wishes for new successes which are sent to you by millions of Communists in Lenin's country, the first country of socialism in history. [applause]

Participating in the work of the Eighth DKP Congress, we see that a spirit of complacency is alien to true Communists no matter what country they work in. Our parties work under different conditions. Each solves its own tasks. However, there are problems on which we are jointly working and these are what we are talking about today. There was frank and principled discussion of these problems at our 27th CPSU congress. Its significance is great for the CPSU and for our country. Political solutions have been adopted that are directed toward deep economic and social changes in the life of the country. [applause]

The situation in the world is tense. It is not fortuitous that it gives rise to special alarm in the people of the FRG. Two world conflagrations have already begun on German soil. People in your country are well aware of what a policy of unlimited arms race and saber rattling leads to. We are firmly convinced that it is possible to make progress and to bring a turn-around in world affairs. It is possible because the forces that are coming out in favor of such a turn around are very great. [applause]

Long live the inviolable freidnship between the CPSU and the DPK. [applause]

Assails Media on Chernobyl

LD021830 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Hamburg May 2 TASS -- Boris Yeltsin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, who is heading a CPSU delegation, today addressed the 13th congress of the German Communist Party.

In describing the decisions defining the course towards the accerlated social and economic development of the USSR, advanced at the 27th CPSU Congress, Yeltsin stressed that peace was necessary for the implementation of the programme.

The situation remained tense, he said. It was no accident that it was giving rise to particular concern among the population in the Federal Republic of Germany. Two world wars started on German soil.

It was well known where the policy of the unrestricted arms race and sabre-rattling was leading to, he pointed out. Europe should never again become an arena of wars. It was the duty of the Europeans, all and everyone, to prevent that.

Profoundly mindful of our responsibility for the survival of mankind, and of the need for urgent actions, we have offered a programme of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the turn of the century," the head of the CPSU delegation said.

"We stand for deep cuts in conventional armaments as well. On behalf of the CPSU leadership, we declare here: The Soviet Union is prepared to implement this programme wholly and till the end, point by point."

"We demonstrated our good will to the entire world by introducing a unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons testing. But our proposals did not find a proper response from the other side."

The Soviet proposals for turning Europe into a zone free from chemical weapons also were rejected, he said. The reason was clear since the United States was now working on binary weapons.

The implementation of the U.S. programme was threatening to turn the world's densely-populated areas into a potential theatre of a devastating chemical war. Europe's civilian population would be the chief victim. "Our ideological opponents," Yeltsin pointed out, "do not miss a single opportunity to launch yet one more campaign against the USSR. Here is the latest example. The bourgeois propaganda media are concocting many hoaxes around the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant.

One cannot but be indignant at the brazen lie about thousands of dead in West German newspapers, for instance, in today's BILD. On the purpose of all that is to step up even more the anti-Soviet hysteria in the hope of driving a wedge in the Soviet Union's relations with other countries.

I can state with responsibility that the government is doing everything to eliminate the consequences of the breakdown and, in implementing the energy programme, to continue using the atom for the peaceful purposes in the interests of man."

The United States wanted to turn Western Europe into its "dual hostage" -- both nuclear and chemical, Yeltsin said. "As far as the Pershing-two and long-range cruise missiles are concerned, the United States is clearly engaged in an unfair play in a bid to divert a retaliatory strike from its own territory at the expense of the population of its allies, including the FRG.

This is a direct deception of the peoples of Western Europe. You and we cannot place the destinies of peace in the hands of American imperialism and the FRG Government obediently following in its wake."

Yeltsin recalled the recent proposal by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to start reducing conventional armaments and tactical nuclear weapons over the entire territory of Europe -- from the Atlantic to the Urals -- under international verification.

"The implementation of our proposals," Yeltsin said, "Presupposes the reciprocal wish of the other side to act likewise. So far, we see no wish of this kind in Washington, nor in several European capitals, including Bonn.

"We regard the FRG as an important political partner. But one should understand that partnership presupposes a loyal, peace-loving policy with regard to each other . But Bonn's political course is deviating ever further from this policy. And this hinders the development of our relations which could be rather fruitful under other circumstances."

The head of the CPSU delegation expressed confidence that it was possible to achieve progress and a turn in international affairs. "Wars are intrinsically alien to socialism. It is not by the force of arms, but by the force of example that socialism is proving and will prove its advantages over the society built on the exploitation of man by man."

Hamburg TV Interview

DW041756 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 2030 GMT 2 May 86

[Interview with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow city party committee, by editor Barbara Friederichs in Hamburg on 2 May -- recorded in Russian with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Yeltsin] The reactor was shut down immediately following the accident, as were the three neighboring reactors. The cain reaction has stopped. That is credible and reliable information. However, there still is radioactivity, because there still are products of half life in that zone. It still is a dangerous zone, and men are not allowed to go there. Measures are being taken to prevent the escape of radioactivity into the atmosphere. Bags of sand, lead, and boron are being dropped from helicopters so as to create an impervius dome over the zone of the accident. Radioactivity has substantially decreased. However, it still amounts to 200 roentgen per hour.

[Friederichs] Men, animals, foodstuffs, water, and the soil are in jeopardy.

[Yeltsin] We immediately evacuated the people of four locations in a radius of about 30 km, as you said correctly, to prevent the people there from being exposed to radioactivity. Certain water reservoirs in Chernobyl itself naturally are contaminated. However, the rivers are not contaminated. The zone with enhanced radioactivity, which has been blocked off, continues to be inaccessible to human beings even though the level of radioactivity has decreased. Nonetheless, people are not admitted to the zone unprotected.

AFP Interview

AU050950 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Hamburg, West Germany, May 5 (AFP) -- Radioactive leaks from Chernobyl have been plugged by sacks of sand, lead and boron, thrown on the damaged plant from helicopters, a top Soviet Official said Monday.

Boris Yeltsin, secretary-general of the Communist Party for the Moscow region, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "an air-tight seal covers the plant and is preventing all radioactive leak into the air."

Mr Yeltsin first revealed details of the operation in an interview th West German television Friday night. He is in Hamburg for a conference of the West German Communist Party.

"Special radio-controlled vehicles are currently carrying measures and are taking photos inside" the plant, he said.

"Within the plant, the fire is totally extinguished. The radioactive cloud above the plant is dissipating little by little and its level of radioactivity is now harmless to man," he said.

He said that a recent statement pointing to "human error" a the cause of the accident was "only one hypotheses among others, which should not be considered conclusive at this state."

"The cause of the accident can only be known precisely when specialists enter the reactor," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin also said that Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov and Igor Ligachev, who is considered by Western analysts to be an unofficial deputy leader, were "still in situ."

"They are talking to the 49,000 people, form four areas, who were evacuated from the contaminated zone, in a radius of 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the reactor, who have been housed in nearby towns and villages."

Mr Yeltsin said he was unable to say when the evacuees could return. "We have had experience in this type of incident, either in peacetime or wartime," he said.

He ruled out suggestions that houses in the area would have to be destroyed and topsoil removed.

"The houses, like the soil, are intact, and will be especially treated with special chemicals," he said.

Later, "when the situatuion will have returned to normal, we will tackle the question of whether it is possible to recultivate this land," he said.

"Special Army units, specially trained in decontamination, have been mobilised," and were being helped in the clear-up by some of the evacuees, he said.

Mr. Yeltsin also reiterated criticism of western coverage of the accident, saying it featured "slanderous tolls" whose "aim is clear and precise."

It contrasted, he said with the Soviet Government's "will to inform the West about the accident, even when it was not obliged to, under any specific agreement."

"There was no delay in transmitting information," he said. "From the very first minute, the authorities were alerted. As soon as information on the catastrophe was collated, Western countries were immediately alerted."

Moscow informed the West about the accident after Sweden announced that it had detected fallout from the stricken plant.

The Chernobyl evacuees have been lodged in houses, not tents, and have running water and heating, he said.

In a reference to several precautionary measures adopted in Western countries in reaction to fallout from the plant, he said the Chernobyl evacuees "drink milk and eat vegetables, they do not walk around with umbrellas, and if they bathe their children every day, it's just what they did before.

"It is regrettable that certain Western parents are only doing that now."

Mies Addresses Congress

LD021024 Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Hamburg May 2 TASS -- Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, has addressed a report to the eighth congress of the German Communist Party, which opened here today.

The world today is witnessing speedy and far-reaching change, he said.

The recent events in the world have confronted our country too with the need to take a decision whether the FRG Government will further follow, contrary to its peace-making statements, the baneful course of support for the policy of confrontation and arms race pursued by U.S. imperialism, or it will make, in action, a contribution to ensuring peace, disarmament and detente? Whether it will carry on the reactionary and undemocratic policy, or the democratic forces will succeed in ensuring a different, new policy?

In recent days, Herbert Mies continued, we have witnessed how speedily the situation may dangerously deteriorate. We are indignant at the heinous U.S. Airforce bombing raid against Libya's civilian population. It has again been borne out that the aggressive circles of the United States do not stop at violence and terror in order to dictate their will to other peoples, thus acting as a world policeman.

The Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions has infused the peoples with hope for progress in the effort to ensure nuclear disarmament. The USA has continued its nuclear testing and missed the unique chance, which was opened by the Soviet Union's policy. This makes us demand from the rostrum of the congress an end to nuclear testing. The Soviet proposal concerning an agreement on a comprehensive termination of nuclear explosions should be implemented. We are unanimous with the SED, the trade unions, the "Green" party, all the peace forces urging the FRG Government that it should demand that the USA give up nuclear explosions. Such is the will of our people, Herbert Mies stressed.

The reports condemned the secret agreements between the FRG and the USA, which have geared the FRG to the implementation of the sinister U.S. "star wars" programme. By this decision Bonn has taken upon itself a part of the responsibility for the plans to spread the arms race into outer space. It will be also responsible for the start, as a result of implementation of the SDI programme, of a new spiral of the arms race, unseen in its scope. This decision runs counter to the security interests of the FRG, the will of the majority of our country's people. There can be only one answer to the decision of the FRG Government to participate in the SDI: The struggle against the "star wars" should be carried on. We need not "star wars", but peace on earth.

We wish this century to end under the badge of peace, disarmament and cooperation, and the new millenium start under peaceful skies, without fear for mankind's self-destruction, Herbert Mies stressed. Therefore we welcome with all our hearts the programme put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and confirmed by the 27th CPSU Congress for delivering mankind from nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

A considerable part of the report of the board of the German Communist Party was devoted to an analysis of the causes of the current economic crisis of capitalism and its aftermaths for the working people of the FRG. There has been a change in the balance of forces in favour of the rightist conservative wing of big business and the military industrial complex under the badge of a "change" after the new cabinet came to power in 1982, Herbert Mies pointed out. Mass unemployment, especially among young people and women is growing. "New poverty", which affected nearly six million people, has appeared in such a rich country as the FRG. The chairman of the German Communist Party demanded that a qualitatively new economic and social policy be pursued in the interests of a majority of the FRG's population.

Congress Ends

LD041430 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Hamburg May 4 TASS -- The German Communist Party ended its 8th Congress here today.

For the past three days its delegates discussed the results of the party's work since the previous congress and outlined concrete tasks of further efforts for peace and against the threat of war, which has been growing as a result of the adventurist policy of the Reagan administration and its faithful vassal, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany led by the right-wing conservative CDU-CSU [Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union] bloc.

"There is nothing more important than peace," the congress said in a unanimously adopted main document. It added that the threat of nuclear war, which has arisen as a result of the policy of confrontation and the arms race pursued by the more reactionary quarters of imperialism, is greater than ever. Washington's "star wars" plans have lent a fundamentally new scope to this threat.

Speaker after speaker at the congress stressed the exceptional importance of a Soviet program for completely delivering mankind from nuclear weapons by the year 2000. Wholehearted support was also given at the congress to the Soviet initiative for substantially reducing conventional arms and armed forces in Europe -- for the Atlantic to the Urals.

One demand repeatedly made in the packed conference hall of Hamburg's congress center, the venue of the German communist party's congress, was: "A war should start from German soil never again." The delegates also demanded in their speeches: "Stop U.S. cruise missile deployments", "Remove the already stationed first-strike weapons from the country" and "prevent the entry of binary weapons into the FRG and secure with withdrawal of the U.S. chemical weapons of mass annihilation stocked here".

Fulfilling the decision of its 7th Congress to strengthen the German Communist Party in every way and increase its membership, the party has been able to boost its ranks by more than 10,000 people, mostly young people.

The congress paid much attention to working out a program for further action by the communists to accomplish pressing domestic policy tasks. These include measures to eliminate unemployment, which affects about 2.5 million people, ensure full employment, and mobilize working people to campaign to protect their constitutional, social and economic rights and freedoms, first of all the right to strike.

The makeup of the Hamburg forum indicated that the German Communist Party is a party expressing the interests of the working people. Nearly 77 percent of its delegates were factory and office workers and 13 percent intellectuals. Women accounted for 43 percent of the delegates.

The congress called on the land court in Krefeld to administer strict punishment to Nazi criminal Wolfgang Otto, one of the accomplices in the villainous murder of German communist party Chairman Ernst Thaelmann.

The congress elected the party's leading bodies. Herbert Mies was re-elected party chairman.

NORWEGIAN ENVOY PROTESTS CHERNOBYL HANDLING

PM021414 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 30 Apr 86 p 72

[Unattributed report: "The Soviet Union Should Have Given a Warning"]

[Text] Norway has told the Soviet Union unambiguously that there should have been a warning about the accident at the nuclear power station outside Kiev. Yesterday Norway's ambassador in Moscow, Olav Bucher-Johannessen, went to the Soviet Foreign Ministry where he delivered a complaint that this had not happened. Ambassador Bucher-Johannessen had been instructed to do so by Oslo.

According to AFTENPOSTEN's information, the Soviet Foreign Ministry had no new information to give during the talks which took place in the Scandinavian section.

ENVOY TO FRG URGES DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS

DW051054 Hamburg BILD in German 3 May 86 pp 1, 9

[Interview with USSR Ambassador Yuliy Kvitsinskiy by reporter Stephen Vogel in Hamburg; date not given]

[Text] When will Sakharov, the Soviet regime critic, eventually be permitted to go to the West? That was one question from the exclusive BILD interview with the new Soviet ambassador in Bonn, Yuliy Kvitsinskiy. Another question: What are German-Soviet relations like today?

Kvistinskiy's answer shocked the Bonn government yesterday: "Naturally, German-Soviet relations are worse than they were a few years ago. The main reason is the international situation, which has deteriorated in the last 3 years. It reflects on our relations with the FRG."

BILD: Please be specific...

Kvitsinskiy: Well, we note the absence of Bonn's progress toward disarmament. It is simply incorrect that only the Soviet Union and the United States can decide on disarmament measures. Every country must make its own contribution, especially a country such as the FRG. It is geographically, politically, and economically a significant country. If the Federal Government pressed more decisively for disarmament, peace would be more secure in Europe, and we would have advanced considerably more in disarmament. My government regrets the insufficient steps by the Federal Government.

BILD: What change would you have liked to see?

Kvitsinskiy: For example, energetic decisions to decrease the number of intermediate-range missiles in Europe. We also note the lack of clear statements in favor of a halt to nuclear testing and dismantling chemical weapons. Nothing significant is being done to dismantle conventional weapons.

BILD: Now we have heard quite a lot of Soviet demands. What is your country prepared to do?

Kvitsinskiy: We are not joking. We are very serious. We are prepared to renounce all space weapons. We have made definite proposals to totally destroy all nuclear weapons. Our proposals to drastically dismantle conventional weapons are completely new. Unfortunately, we always hear "no" or some evasive statement. The Soviet Union cannot accept that in the long run. The Western attitude seriously endangers detente policy. The West must take the initiative to avoid a new phase in the arms race. The Soviet Union does everything it can.

BILD: We believe that the Soviet Union is doing everything it can to separate the FRG from NATO so that we will become a neutralist state that would then be pulverized between the blocs.

Kvitsinskiy: You are wrong. There are unchangeable realities that will continue into the foreseeable future. The FRG is and will remain a NATO state, an ally of the United States. The Soviet Union cannot and does not want to change that. However, the FRG is our neighbor in Europe. It has been a neighbor for hundreds of years. We have common traditions. We attribute the greatest importance to peaceful relations with our Western neighbor. We cannot feel unconcerned by what happens in the FRG.

BILD: When will General Secretary Gorbachev come to the FRG?

Kvitsinskiy: There are no definite plans. General Secretary Gorbachev will come when the time is ripe. Not yet.

BILD: Will Federal Chancellor Kohl visit the Soviet Union this year?

Kvitsinskiy: Hardly. Such plans are unknown to me. The FRG is in an election year and in an election year everything is difficult.

BILD: In what fields are all reations good between Bonn and Moscow?

Kvitsinskiy: In the economic, scientific-technical, and cultural fields. Also in tourism. My government wants to develop that.

BILD: One word about Sakharov. What chance does he have to come to the West?

Kvitsinskiy: I see no chance at the moment. The man knows many secrets connected with military technology. The technology is still current. For security reasons he cannot leave. I believe that ought to be understood. Nobody is doing anything to him. He lives in Gorki, he is a member of the Academy of Sciences, and he can work.

FRG Chancellery Minister Responds

LD021918 Hamburg DPA in German 1817 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 2 May (DPA) -- [dateline as received] Wolfgang Schaeuble, chancellery minister, stated with regard to an interview given to BILD by the new Soviet ambassador that he is getting off to a bad start in Bonn. Instead of correctly and comprehensively informing the worried population about the extent and consequences of the reactor accident in the Soviet Union, he is continuing the Moscow propaganda campaign against our country. The Federal Government has been striving for more than 3 years for an improvement in German-Soviet relations with objective and constructive proposals. The ambassador's remarks make no positive contribution to this. His uncalled for criticism contradicts also the balanced views expressed only recently by him to Bonn during disarmament discussions.

TASS: GREECE RECEIVES GORBACHEV MESSAGE

LD022004 Moscow TASS in English 1919 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 2 TASS -- Today Viltor Komplektov, USSR deputy foreign minister, has received Ioannis Grigoriadhis, ambassador of the Greek republic to the USSR, and handed over to his a message by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to heads of state and government of the group of six countries (Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden). The message is a reply to the appeal which the Greek ambassador forwarded to Mikhail Gorbachev on last April 10 on their instructions.

ARAB MEDIATORS PERSUADE MOSCOW TO RESCHEDULE LIBYAN DEBTS

GF031436 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 2 May 86 p 14

[Text] Tripoli -- Among the important results of the recent U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah is that the USSR and Libya have strengthened their economic, trade, and military relations.

High-level diplomatic sources have confirmed for AL-BAYAN that two leading Arab officials, Taysir Qubba'ah, former member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Executive Bureau, and George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, recently shuttled between Moscow and Tripoli with the aim of delineating a new map of economic relations between the USSR and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The mediation, which was carried out at Libya's request, dealt with the issue of Libya's accumulated debts to the USSR which have amounted to large figures in recent years.

The sources said that the mediation by Qubba'ah and Hawi achieved noticeable success in persuading the Soviets to reschedule Libya's debts. At the same time, the Libyan leadership agreed to open several Soviet trade missions in major Libyan cities, in addition to doubling and developing Libya's imports from Moscow and the other socialist countries in CEMA.

The sources said that the USSR has accepted the Libyan request for increasing Soviet imports of Libyan oil as a form of debt repayment.

The sources added that it has been agreed, through the mediation, to increase the amount of oil that the USSR imports from Libya from 100,000 BPD [barrels per day] to 150,000 BPD, with the additional 50,000 BPD being the ideal way of repaying the rescheduled debts.

The sources went so far as to say that the USSR agreed to pay $10 per barrel thus enabling the Jamahiriyah to repay $500,000 per day of its debts to the USSR.

The sources expressed total optimism regarding the possibility that the Palestinian-Lebasese mediation committee will continue its shuttle tours in order to establish economic relations between the two capitals which will compensate for the effect of the U.S.-European economic siege on the Jamahiriyah.

The sources ruled out the possibility that Soviet-Libyan relations will develop to the stage of Tripoli's joining the Warsaw Pact.

NEW KUWAITI ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PM011525 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Official Reports"]

[Text] 'Abd al-Muhsin Yusuf al-Duwayj, Kuwaiti ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, presented his credentials in the Kremlin 29 April to B. Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soveit Presidium. After the presentation of credentials and an exchange of speeches, B. Yazkuliyev and 'A.M.Y. al-Duwayj had a friendly conversation. Taking part in the conversation were L.F. Ilichev, USSR deputy foreign minister, and V.G. Vysotin, chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium International Relations Department.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT REPORTED

Arbatov Comments

BK041326 London BBC World Service in English 1110 GMT 4 May 86

[Interview with Georgiy Arbatov, USSR Central Committee member and director of the USA and Canada Institute, on international phone-in program "Its Your World", moderated by correspondent Sue McGregor; Arbatov answers questions from "radio studio in Moscow" -- live]

[Text] [Question by Robert Fundering from Holland] Well, last week we have seen that the Soviet Union has very reluctantly given very few facts about the accident in Chernobyl both to its own people and to the outside world; and with the rise to power of Mr Gorbachev much has been said and written in the Soviet Union about openness, the Russian word is glasnost. Now if this openness does not mean that the Soviet Union gives information like about the accident which happened in Chernobyl both to the Soviet people and the rest of the people in the world, then my question is: What does openness mean?

[Sue McGregor] Dr Arbatov?

[Arbatov] Well this was quite a speech, not simply a question. I would say that, you know, I am not sure what was expected from us. From the first moment, the catastrophe, which everybody must understand what it means: For many thousand grades temperature, radioactivity. Really, you have to think about people, to save people. There you do not know the dimensions. There you do not know yet the causes and the Americans do not know, because, for instance of catastrophe, calamity with Challenger or some other things. It is a very well-known situation. So we said what we did know and our first and major concern at this moment was not to think about, you know, how to please American Government or some other government, but how really to deal with this extremely dangerous situation, and we did it. And as it goes now, we give the information we think is essential and we have it; and we have invited, as you heard today, Dr Hans Blix from (Magathe) from the international nuclear power agency from Vienna. He will be here and everything will be available to him. I will remind you only one fact, that the United States has given report to this agency in Vienna after the Three Mile Island accident 3 months after it happened. So you see, what we really got to know, it is the extend of hate against the Soviet Union was nourished in many Western governments. This hate has grown in a hate campaign immediately.

[McGregor] Dr Arbatov, if I may go back to Mr Fundering, I think what, Mr Fundering, you had in mind, and perhaps you could confirm this, was the time gap between the accident happening and the Soviet Union admitting it had happened, is that right?

[Fundering] Yes. Especially because there was radiation involved and other countries suffered as well.

[Arbatov] Other countries did not suffer. It was really bad accident and information should be given and was given. Not maybe as quick as some people wanted. Maybe there were some technical delays, I do not know. I tell you again that our major attention was there where the danger was the greatest and really if you have not to believe the psychological warfare type of propaganda that the radiation level has risen to tremendous, you know, levels. [sentence as heard] It was comparable to one -- maybe less, maybe more, I do not know -- to one explosion in the atmosphere of the nuclear bomb. So how come, how do you live with tens of thousands of thousands of nuclear weapons in Europe and in all over the world with NATO strategy to use them first and do not protest it.

And now you had an accident, it is a bad accident and it is worst catastrophe. Yes it was. But you have really to be seen about it and look at the major things and I think what it really has shown to the world [is] how vulnerable contemporary human civilization is in technological sense.

[McGregor] I think Mr Fundering is trying to get a word in there, Dr Arbatov.

[Fundering] Yes, I just want to say one thing -- that this incident and the reaction direction has been depicted as a hatred to the Soviet Union. But, I mean the measures taken, like for example in Poland, which is a country friendly to the Soviet Union, where people are advised not to drink milk and where children have been given iodine -- I mean, this is no hatred. These are serious measures.

[Arbatov] Their concerns are our concerns. Nobody knows very good about the dangers, and of course one has to be prudent and we understand it very good. We have sent, by the way, today and yesterday, to Poland and to remaining neighboring countries our specialists, very highly ranked, with all the equipment to really to learn about it. But we know that Poland and Hungary and all other countries are not under danger just as much as our people in Kiev and other regions. They were not evacuated. Only Britain suddenly recalled its students and made a big show after it was a (?masquerade) with all the things. Of course, nobody has found anything. I think Britain has to really recall maybe your tourists from Las Vegas. They are under much greater radiation from nuclear tests by America.

[McGregor] We have not heard that that yet had to happen Dr Arbatov, but I will thank Mr Fundering for his question and move now to a caller in Basingstoke in Hampshire here in England, James McIntosh. Mr McIntosh, your question.

[McIntosh] Good day, sir. As a Scotchman, I am phoning in my question, in no hate against the Russian people, but as a father of six children, we have been hearing these reports. The question I would like to ask, though, is why has your government not produced any radiation figures in view of when the Americans and the British had their radiation overspilled, there were figures produced immediately to people. But is seems your government whether the knowledge was (?blocked) coming though your central government or what, they don't see them for about 4 of 5 days? As a father of six children, in the future, is your government allowed to go ahead and overspill this stuff all over Europe. So there is no hate in my question. It is for humanity I am asking. Atomic energy as a fuel of the future can [word indistinct] from the world's natural resources will be used up. I might ask my question about those radiation figures, why? All great things can be knocked down to how and why.

[Arbatov] You know...

[McGregor] All right, Mr McIntosh, your question was why have radiation figures not been published?

[Arbatov] Yes, I am not sure that they were not published. I know that we have given bulletins to Dr Hans Blix and he made press releases and maybe you are asking for somethings which we just don't know. I don't think our science can give the radiation figures in Scotland, or in Wales, or in northern Norway.

[McGregor] But they must be able to give them in Kiev.

[Arbatov] And they have it. In Kiev, in Kiev, it is normal.

There is no abnormality in it. At the place of the accident it is very high and people are not allowed to go there and there are precautions taken. So I think, all of it, you have to understand that radiation -- at what point and where -- it is a highly technical subject. I am not a specialist in this, but I know for sure that our nuclear energy agency is in constant contact with international nuclear energy agency and they are coming tomorrow to Moscow, and so you will have all the information. You just, I think each government -- we cannot see, for instance, that there will be come radiation in Japan or somewhere else. We had this radiation in our country when the Chinese had made their nuclear test in atmosphere and the British, and the Americans, etc., and even from underground testing. It is here, we cannot say how the radiation has risen in Scotland.

[McGregor] Dr Arbatov, what people of the West find difficult to understand is why people in the Soviet Union haven't been told what the radiation figures are, let alone people of the West.

[Arbatov] The people in Kiev, people in othe places are being given all the information where it is really important. At the same time, if you make a sensation out of it and create panic, this [is] what I meant under hate, if you look at what was broadcast to Soviet Union, to Poland, to Romania by Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, infamous broadcasting station financed by Central Intelligence Agency of United States. It was really a psychological warfare to create panic, to create suspicion, to disrupt the whole life, to destabilize the whole normal life of the country we did not want to participate ...

[McGregor] Mr McIntosh, are you satisfied with that answer?

[McIntosh] It's the standard Russian answer I'm getting. As I say, the answer I was expecting was that the Russians come clean of the whole thing saying a, we made a mistake. Why couldn't they call in an international team of scientists? But they're keeping everything close to their chests and I saw it as a standard Russian government answer as far as I'm concerned. There's still a lot to be opened up in the future of when the figures will be released because the Soviet Government will do these things and realize they make a mistake and then it takes a week or two and a month. Like the plane that was shot down by the Russians, it took about 4 to 6 weeks before they finally decided to open up.

[McGregor] Thank you Mr McIntosh for your question. We will now move to Manchester, here in England, and to George Kuwalskiy, who is on the line. Mr Kuwalskiy.

[Kuwalskiy] Hello, good day to you sir. I would like to follow up on the first caller. In your opinion, would the Government of the Soviet Union contemplate compensations to the neighbors, Poland in particular, since it was most seriously affected by this nuclear disaster at Chernobyl for loss of agricultural, dairy, meat products, and exports, and also for the extra medical supplies it had to distribute to the children?

[Arbatov] You don't have to really to worry about that. I am sure we will compensate reports for all of the things they, they themselves, we help them anyway. [sentence as heard]

[Duwalskiy] Yes.

[Arbatov] They are desperate situations and it will be done here. But you also have not to believe everything you hear. It has not yet been established what happened in the harvest, what the real loss was, and many people here think I have discussed it with a couple of specialists today, that exactly, it won't be of any significance, even much closer to the place of accident and Poland or Romania.

[McGregor] Will you be revealing figures to Dr Blix and his colleagues from the International Atomic Energy Agency?

[Arbatov] Well, they will have all the relevant information. Otherwise we wouldn't invite them.

[McGregor] As you know, the Soviet Union signed an agreement allowing inspection of nuclear installations by the IAEA.

[Arbatov] Of course, of course, yes, yes, yes, and we were, by the way -- all the time we had a perfect record in complying with this agreement as also with other agreements; and as far as the accident, it is a very sad occasion, but we have in the world 151 accidents of power stations, including some in Britain, some in the United States and in other countries. It is (?sort of thing) I hope it will -- now we will learn from this very sad and tragic situation some additional things which will help to make it safer everywhere in the world.

[McGregor] Mr Kuwalskiy, would you like to come back?

[Kuwalskiy] Yes, I would just like to ask your guest why doesn't the Soviet Union build those power stations somewhere near Moscow? Why do they have to build those power stations at the borders of other countries?

[Arbatov] Do you think it is an intention to harm the other countries. Yes, I can tell you that there is a big nuclear station near Leningrad, which is second largest city in Soviet Union, and the third nuclear station was actually very close to Moscow in Obinsk. Simply, you don't have the correct information. We are not discriminating anyway, we are against any sort of nuclear danger, including this. And you know, thus again I return to this. This was a lesson of how technologically vulnerable the contemporary human civilization is. This is only one of the examples. We had Bhopal, where not two, but thousands of people died and 100,000 suffered. We had acid rains, we have even air transportation and the ultimate danger of nuclear war. And this has to be thought about and I think it calls for international cooperation, which we are for, and also for diminishing the (?more risk) in it.

[McGregor] Dr Arbatov, I think what many listeners listening to you now will wish to know is: Will the openness that Mr Gorbachev's referred to lead eventually to the Soviet Union sharing with the rest of the world its findings on what exactly happened at Chernobyl?

[Arbatov] Of course, it will. Of course, it will. I again remind you that it took for the United States 3 months to give the report to Vienna, to send the report on Three Mile Island calamity; and they invited, by the way, one representative, who was American, from Vienna -- no not anybody, not any foreigner still to look for it. We invited already the chairman, the director of this agency with some other people, that we'll give them and will have the report as soon as possible and will (?direct) ourselves and give also to others. I think it is very important to know all these things where it is a knowledge and information which has to be shared. Of course, all of us are vulnerable to such accidents and we need to know the experience of others and we understand it in this way. And I think would there be a little bit more of goodwill and sympathy even to this really very bad accident we had, it would make us much easier to do it as quick as possible. We will do it anyway.

[McGregor] I will thank Mr Kuwalskiy for his question and say to you, Dr Arbatov, you are aware of course that Sir Geoffrey Howe said today in Tokyo we mustn't turn the human tragedy of Chernobyl into a propaganda football.

[Arbatov] Yes, yes, it's very good that he had said it and he had reasons to say. So he -- not only we in Moscow -- even he felt it, your foreign minister, that there is a danger of turning everything in an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign.

[McGregor] Thank you.

[Arbatov] ...shouldn't be dealt in this way.

[McGregor] We will now move to a questioner in Frankfurt, in West Germany. Mr John Vargedin. Hello.

[Vargedin] Hell, good afternoon sir.

[Arbatov] Good afternoon.

[Vargedin] Sir, recent events have highlighted the dangers of nuclear technology. Is it not possible for the Soviet Union, which is the richest land on earth in terms of energy resources, to turn away from this technology or, pardon me, don't you have all the plutonium you need?

[Arbatov] Now, you see, I think that actually I know this and I have sympathy with this ideas how to make world safer from any danger of technology. But we have -- even you know whether we developed coal as major source of technology, where the lot of accidents in coal pits and then in steam stations when the steam stations exploded etc. [sentence as heard] So, it is a very sad truth that each step forward and technological progress bears with it some risks and we understand that all other resources are finite. All others we have, maybe more of them than West Germany has, but even this will be finite. And, therefore, we feel up till now, we feel obliged, like many European countries, to build this nuclear station. What is the task: to make it as safe as possible. But I am not in a position either to defend it or not, I really don't feel myself to be a great specialist in energy programs.

[McGregor] Mr Vargedin.

[Vargedin] I would to like inform, I mean, I would like to tell the gentleman that after all they are selling gas to West Europe. That is, they have surplus energy. Why do they have to have atom plants in their country? They are selling gas to Western Europe.

[Arbatov] You know, from far away, it looks a little bit different. We have gas and this gas is 3,000 km from Moscow. You have to get it in a very difficult situation. Therefore, it cannot serve in all parts of the country. You have to build very expensive pipelines and stations which bring it to high pressure, (?transport it as) gas, etc, etc.

[McGregor] But what you are saying, Dr Arbatov, is as far as you're aware, the Soviet Union is not intending to be deflected from its reliance for at least part of its energy on nuclear power.

[Arbatov] I think we want that because of the accident, like you; because of many accidents and air traffic you don't stop using airplane and to rely on air traffic. I think we won't do it, we will make, of course, and all the world will make, I think, very serious studies here, and serious conclusion, and I think there is a lot of room for making it safer. But I don't think we can just stop in this direction developments; the day will come when all the oil reserves, even in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, will be used out and we will have to rely on fusion mainly. Of course, the present technology is still very primitive, but the world will have to look for it.

[McGregor] Well, thank you Mr Vargedin from Frankfurt for your question, and you mentioned the Middle East. Dr Arbatov, we now have a question which homes in on a particular area there -- from Calais in France. Mr Andrei Fusyan, is on the line. Hello Mr Fusyan.

[Fusyan] Yes.

[McGregor] Your question, please, to Dr Arbatov.

[Fusyan] I would like to ask Mr Arbatov why does the Soviet Union support Libya when it is so much responsible for instability in the West.

[Arbatov] Who is responsible? Libya or Soviet Union?

[Fusyan] I mean the Soviet Union is helping Libya and the Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's regime to carry on when it is responsible for so many attacks upon us in the West.

[McGregor] I think he was referring to Libya, Dr Arbatov.

[Arbatov] Yes, I understand. You know it is -- nobody has proven that Libya [changes thought] United States try to demonize Al-Qadhdhafi and demonize Libya and they used one target after another in doing this. But nobody has given proof; at least the proof which were given by America were drafted only by Mrs Thatcher. Nobody else. Even the president of France, Mr Fusyan, hasn't trusted it. So I think the question is wrongly put. You have to prove it first that Libya is destabilizing the world and then asking questions why are we supporting Libya.

[Fusyan] Mr Arbatov, I have heard that a young policewoman in London was shot on the Libyan Embassy. It seems to me proof enough of the fact that the Libyans are involved in terrorism [words indistinct].

[Arbatov] Well, you know this is also not a proof. You know there are a lot of Americans who commit crimes here and there, and West Germans, they have got Red Brigade, and then there are fascist and neofascist organizations. You cannot, because of it, put a blame on the whole nations. I would say it would be most horrible approach to any problem. Guilt by association.

[McGregor] Dr Arbatov, are you saying that there is no proof as far as you are concerned that Libya is connected with terrorism and that Col al-Qadhdhafi is?

[Arbatov] Yes, of course not. We think we are as much against terrorism as the West is and we actually proposed cooperation in this field, specifying especially air and land and sea traffic, and there can also be other areas. But you have to look from our point of view. For instance, United States is the major villain in this sense in supporting terrorism all over the world. What are contras? In our opinion, they are terrorists over whom United States will lose any control in very short time. They are providing now Stingers to Savimbi and to contras in Afghanistan. They will be on Bazaars in Peshawar to be bought and then they will in half a year shoot down British or French or American or Soviet civilian airplanes. So who is really guilty of this thing. You have to look at real causes. I think the whole situation in Middle East is breeding instability, is breeding despair, is breeding terrorism.

[McGregor] Dr Arbatov, you said you wish for international cooperation.

[Arbatov] And traffic in armaments is also breeding this.

[McGregor] Can I ask for your comments, please, on -- you will have heard it on the BBC World Service news -- that PRAVDA today saying that it does not feel that terrorism should be top of the agenda at the Tokyo economic summit.

[Arbatov] Well, you know, because it is not about terrorism. In fact it is about what President Reagan means on terrorism. He is tremendously selective about terrorism in all his sympathies and antipathies. You know for him Pinochet is not a terrorist, he is not a dictator. He is one of his pet dictators. But we look at it differently, and most of the world looks differently. So we are not what PRAVDA meant today, it was not against terrorism. Against terrorism, we are ready to participate and to discuss it. It is a problem of whole humanity. By the way, it is stressed even by this accident. Can you imagine an explosion at a nuclear power plant. What this can mean? It can become often object of terrorism.

[McGregor] Thank you Mr Fusyan for your question from Calais in France. We now have a caller who is in Leningrad in the Soviet Union, Aleksandr Benedictov. Hello, Mr Benedictov. Your question please to Dr Arbatov.

[Benedictov] Good afternoon Dr Arbatov.

[Dr Arbatov] Good afternoon.

[Benedictov] My question is if is is necessary for an ordinary Soviet citizen to lean to speak English first in order to put question to such high-ranking Soviet officials or politicians.

[Arbatov] Oh yes; please phone me any day even in Russian. We can have this talk in ordinary Russian. I will give my telephone number if you need it. It is now in directories.

[McGregor] For that conversation, I think the point Mr Benedictov was making was that conversation would not be heard by other Soviet citizens about us.

[Arbatov] Why? I speak a lot on Soviet TV and Mr Benedictov, if he listens to it, he must know it and he must have seen me more than once.

[Benedictov] Dr Arbatov, please, are you certainly planning to take part in similar phone-in program of this (?type) that could be seen in the Soviet Union.

[Arbatov] Excuse me, repeat.

[Benedictov] So other Soviet citizens may take part in it.

[Arbatov] Well, you ask whether there are possibly such programs in Soviet Union. But, you must -- really I do not know have you a TV at home? There were before the party congress, I think -- three times a week for instance, led by Dr (Vazinyanskiy) -- were the ministers who sat around the round table, members of the cabinet; and there were six or seven telephones here. Just everybody has seen it and they were just in real time, not pretaped or something asking questions. Sometimes very difficult questions, but they answered them.

[McGregor] But Dr Arbatov, as I understand it, the questions are not in those circumstances put directly by members of the public. They are read out by announcers.

[Arbatov] No, they are given to the girl, the receiver, and she, and somebody goes from there. There it is on TV, not a broadcast. In broadcasting, I think we have also similar things, but I am not sure about it. I tell you in TV, in TV you cannot just put in. You also sort out, excuse me, the question. It is also not direct and not open to all telephone calls. It would not be possible.

[McGregor] But Mr Benedictov is speaking directly to you Mr Arbatov.

[Arbatov] Yes, he is speaking directly to me. He can do it anyway. He could do it on many occasions in our TV programs.

[McGregor] Mr Benedictov, would you like to ask another question directly from Mr Arbatov?

[Benedictov] I have never seen for all my life such high-ranking politician as Mr Arbatov is on the Soviet television taking part in similar program as this one.

[Arbatov] Well, I did not take part in such programs as this on our TV. But people much higher than I, deputy chairmen of Council of Ministers, of chairmen of Council of Ministers, vice premiers and members of cabinet, took part in them and there were a lot of them.

[McGregor] Thank you for putting your question, Mr Benedictov in Leningrad. We will move on now to another caller and he is here in England, in Manchester, Mr Mike Hopkins.

[Hopkins] Good afternoon, Dr Arbatov.

[Arbatov] Good afternoon.

[Hopkins] Mine is a simple question in a sense, yet very difficult I suspect. The question is: Why do you think successive U.S. Administrations have rejected the repeated Soviet peace initiatives (?that have) been made?

[Arbatov] I have great suspicion that it is just because the American Administration has something else in mind. We are for arms control, for disarmament. They are just now in the midst of a massive military buildup. They do not want to stop it. They have plans to have military superiority over us. There are also vested interests integrated in this process and I think this is the whole story; and the policy of the United States is just, you know, what we call neoglobalism and they call it as trying to assert their rights to be the upper judge, to be over international law, over international organizations, to punish all nations like Nicaragua, Libya, or Angola, or Soviet Union, whoever you want. And this is just no way to live in a nuclear age.

[McGregor] Mr Hopkins?

[Hopkins] Yes, I mean, Dr Arbatov's analyses fit my own reading of the situation. What concerns me really is (?why) the United States does seem to have this stance? How is the Soviet Union, through its policy, going to be able to change the U.S. policy such that they do start talking seriously about the major issues that do face us?

[Arbatov] You know, Mr Hopkins, here is the really serious problem. We tried by all means which are available. First of our examples. We did not explode, for instance, nuclear weapons or any nuclear devices since August last year. But first our, you know, persuasion. And also, but we understand very good. We can do quite a bit in this in persuading American public, if not American President, American politicians, to change their policy. But here everybody has to do it. We cannot do it alone and this accident also in Chernobyl has shown, you know, that if something happens which is even not as much a one single nuclear explosion, and people from Tokyo to Sweden become concerned. And here it goes about nuclear war. So everybody has to be concerned. You can not be a passive bystander and I hope that you Mr Hopkins and everybody else will take part in trying, in this effort to try to persuade the American Government really to go in for peaceful policy.

[McGregor] Dr Arbatov, as you will be aware a major stumbling block to the USSR's peace initiatives being accepted by the Americans is that Americans feel that verification is a problem; and how can they now accept your assurances of verification after the Chernobyl accident and the long period of silence?

[Arbatov] Well, this is just what we are protesting here, because we feel that this Chernobyl accident was taken as a pretext to avoid any serious talks on arms control and disarmament. And this is not right, not correct because at the arms control negotiations all the verification procedures are being negotiated about and they they are absolutely necessary for an agreement, and so it is a pretext for, pretext to mislead people to lead them away from really serious goal, from a goal to avoid a catastrophe which will be millions time worse than Chernobyl -- you know, from nuclear war -- and we consider it to be necessary. And we see such, you know, maneuvering around this, and this is what makes us really very sad about the whole handling of this situation by Western governments and Western press. I think Mr Howe was very correct on it but I do not see many other manifestations of such common sense. I hope they will come. By the way, people will also receive all the information about Chernobyl. You are very quick to make conclusions. This just shows as if some people were already ready, just looking for a pretext, for something to happen just to discredit Soviet Union, to disrupt any amount of credibility of Soviet Union and to make it a bad part, look like a bad part.

[MacGregor] So you think, Dr Arbatov, that by implication the visit of Blix and his colleagues from the International Atomic Energy Agency will be just the beginning of allowing people from outside in to look at Soviet installations?

[Arbatov] Well, you know, you know there are some things which are not shown by Western companies, for instance, [that] are being considered as commercial secret theirs, and they have commercial reasons. I don't think we have such reasons with our equipment to other countries of this kind, we build in other countries, and there are no secrets here and all of it will be, will own the relevant information which is really relevant, will be published. [sentence as heard] I, by the way, know for sure I have got most credible information I have that read all our information was correct -- that two people lost their lives during the accident, that around 20 people are in critical situation, that many more people than before me were left away from the hospital and now, I think, in the first days about 40 of them and 40 more now. But, of course, this is serious, but this is how it looks. This is how the accident really is and not thousands or hundreds of thousands as was depicted by Western media.

[McGregor] Have you got information about when the accident happened exactly?

[Arbatov] Well, it must be, I don't know. Is there -- would I known that you are interested I would have brought this information. But it must be on late Saturday or Sunday. In the night between Saturday and Sunday, somewhere there, as far as I understand. I promise you for our next meeting to bring you, by minutes and seconds, correct information.

[McGregor] And how many workers were there in the plant, do you know that in [word indistinct]

[Arbatov] I don't know, there were few workers in the plant; of course, you know, it is highly automatized. Work in the -- especially in the evening shift -- there are only people who controlled what the readings have on different pieces of equipment.

[McGregor] But as we learned from Mr (Bozios), it seemed 49,000 people approximately have been evacuated.

[Arbatov] Yes, because we were very cautious, so we evacuated them from several miles around for just in case some radioactive fallout, though there was no explosion there. It was a fire. There was such fire at Britain, there were such fires in the United States, this was worse, I think, but there was no chain reaction, no explosion. So, the danger was for those in immediate vicinity who got really serious radiation and those who suffered radiation, and they are in hospital. As far as people in different villages and small towns, maybe 10 or 12 km from this -- (?a perfect) measures of precaution, because there can be radioactive fallout and we don't want to have it make any risk with these people. But Kiev again, which is less than 100 miles from Chernobyl, is in full order.

[McGregor] But earlier you said, Dr Arbatov, you didn't know what the radiation levels were; now you are saying people suffered serious through radiation.

[Arbatov] We had radiation, you know again, you asked about it like it is a constant figure. It depends on the place. The radiation figure is different. At the reactors there was very high radiation, 100 meters from it was very high radiation. The km from it was a danger not of radiation but of radioactive fallout of this debris, of vapor, or what has risen to high above and then could fall out. And further, let us say, 100 km from it there was no danger at all. It depends also on the direction of the wind, of course.

[McGregor] Thank you. We moved quite away from Mr Hopkins' question but I thank him for that and we move now to Greenwich here in England not far from London and to David Perkin, and he has a question for you, Dr Arbatov.

[Perkins] Hello, first of all I would like to say that I do not like to indulge in some of the very one-sided questions that often gets from the West. But nevertheless there is something very close to my heart which I think the Soviet Union must face, and that is their frequently brutal treatment of artists whose only real crime is to express their own talent. Now I would like to bring in one example here -- that is of a poet, (Irina Ratistinkaya), whose poems had just been recently published in this country. And for her we had a reading here in London at the poetry study. Now she has been in prison for 3 years now in a 7-year sentence and the charge for her on which she was sentenced was merely the writing and distribution over her book.

[Arbatov] No, it is impossible. It is just impossible. I know. You have very undependable sources.

[McGregor] I wonder if I can interrupt because there is a story about this poet in today's OBSERVER Dr Arbatov. (Irina Ratinsinskaya), 32 years old, who is in a labor camp in Maldovia serving 12 years for alleged anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

[Arbatov] This is different. This is not distributing...[changes thought] and how many years?

[McGregor] Twelve.

[Arbatov] Twelve years, this must have been a very serious crime. I even do not remember. I think it is not given for a such crimes such high sentence. But I am not sure about this. I will look after it. You know, what can I tell you. I hear this name for the first time. We can speak about human rights. I have a lot to say about Northern Ireland, for instance. Or your ghettos, or your strikers who fought with police yesterday must have been striken against Murdoch, Rupert Murdoch, or something else. I think we should look after all of it. It is very important right of every person, the fate of every person. But again it should not be made a subject of propaganda, unsustained by any evidence, when people just say what they have heard and by hearsay just to create, just to spoil the atmosphere. I do not know about this given case. I will ask about it, about (Ratinsinskaya).

[McGregor] She has been taken up by Amnesty International as one of its prisoners on conscience.

[Arbatov] Well, your Amnesty International was wrong on many occasions and they have not absolutely irrefutable sources.

[McGregor] Will her case be brought before officials in Bonn where of course that Helsinki agreement is being discussed again currently?

[Arbatov] Well, Helsinki agreement does not provide for such cases. She can appeal. She has her right to appeal, just like in your country, there is court procedure here, professional procedure which is open to everybody who is accused by something and she will get attention in court and all organizations which provide...

[McGregor, interrupting] And there, Dr Arbatov, I am afraid time has caught up with us and I thank you, Dr Georgiy Arbatov for joining us today on "It Is Your World." It has been the most illuminating discussion. From all of us here to all of you, good-bye.

Ryzhkov, Ligachev Visit Area

PM041330 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 86 First Edition p 2

[Text] On 2 May, Nikilay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, visited the Chernobyl AES area.

They acquainted themselves with the situation in the area of the nuclear power station, and with the participation of a governmental commission and of leaders of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and the Ukrainian SSR Government, party and soviet bodies of Kiev oblast and the town of Chernobyl. They also examined the measures being adopted to eliminate the focus of the accident [ochag avarii] at the fourth power-set of the AES, to normalize the situation in the adjacent area, and to render assistance to the local population.

It was noted that work on overcoming the accident and clearing its consequences is being carried out in an organized manner, using the necessary means. Decisions have been adopted on additional measures to speed up the work that is underway.

Comrades Ryzhkov and Ligachev visited populated points where they met working people who had been temporarily evacuated from the AES area and interested themselves in the organization of their way of life, trade and medical service, job-placement, and the work of schools and preschool children's establishments.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Commitee; Comrade Shcherbina, chairman of the government commission and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Lyashko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; and Comrade Revenko, first secretary of the Kiev Obkom, also took part in the trip.

Decontamination Under Way

LD030020 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Reports from the area of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the site of the recent accident, say the level of radioactivity has lessened considerably. There is no fission reaction and the reacter is choked up. Decontamination of the polluted areas adjoining the power plant is under way. The Chernobyl power plant is situated 130 km north of Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. All offices and economic facilities in the city and around it are functioning normally. The condition of the atmosphere and the quality of drinking water give no reason for concern.

TV Shows Extent of Damage

LD041811 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 May 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Here you can see the area surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear power station. The shots are being taken from a helicopter. [Video shows aerial panorama with buildings and trees that still appear to bear leaves. The buildings are too far away to see in great detail. The pilot of the helicopter is shown not to be wearing a mask of any kind] This is the actual station building. As you can see, there is no vast destruction about which the ranks of the Western mass media have not stopped talking. Only the power set is damaged. All the production sites and neighboring buildings as well as the supports for electric power lines are intact. [Camera pans from left to right of station building of which the roof on the right of shot has been blown off. Other buildings and pylons are intact and power lines can be seen stretching between pylongs] Special units equipped with modern and effective equipment are carrying out work to clean the polluted areas adjacent to the territory of the station. [Video shows further shots of terrain with trees and bridge. Vehicles can be seen crossing the bridge]

This is the power engineers' settlement and the surrounding area. According to the latest statistics, the radioactivity on the territory of the power station and in the settlement has dropped by between one and a half and two times. [Video of further aerial view of wooded area with road running alongside nearest to camera. A vehicle resembling a minibus can be seen driving along the road. Apartment blocks can be seen on the other side of the wood. The camera crosses the wooded area to give closer view of the housing. Single small vehilce can be seen driving across a square among the apartment blocks. No people or animals are shown]